

Assembly

MINUTES

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE - NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE - 58th SESSION

March 18, 1975

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mello at 8:00 A.M. in the Ways and Means Committee Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Mello, Mr. Bremner, Mrs. Brookman, Mr. Dreyer, Mr. Glover, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Weise, Mr. Wittenberg and Mr. Howard was excused from 8:30 to 10:00 A.M. for an Agriculture Hearing.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Tom Tucker, Rex Lundberg, Chancellor Humphrey, Roger Trounday, Ernie Gregory, Stanley P. Jones, and Bob Bruce.

Dr. Tucker explained the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. He stated that there is an increase in the budget because the receiving states have raised their fees. They now offer courses in pharmacy, public health, graduate nursing, podiatry, etc. They have supported 102 students this past year. The Commissioners have not felt that there is a strong need for lawyers in the state of Nevada. A study showed that 50-60 students from Nevada are getting into law schools throughout the United States. Mr. Robinson stated that he had a report from the State Bar Association which showed that there are 400,000 attorneys in the United States, 135,000 law students, 27,000 new graduating attorneys, 14,000 of these will be absorbed and 35 students are from Nevada. Mr. Robinson felt that if the law school was not approved, WICHE should provide law courses for Nevada students. Dr. Tucker stated that \$250,000 to \$300,000 is a rough figure and wondered whether they would be morally obligated to pick up the students who are already in school. There have to be conservative in making a judgment on where the needs are and the needs are in the medical field. They have leaned to the need for and not the interest in. Dr. Humphrey stated that it would be helpful if the Legislature would speak precisely to WICHE programs in requested areas they would like to see in the program. Mr. Robinson stated that perhaps they could pick up students who are in their second year of law school and not the first year.

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Mr. Bremner asked how many students in this program who are attending school out of state come back to Nevada when they graduate. Dr. Tucker stated that they had no figure, but they could get one which would take a long time. He felt that if they do not get the Nevada students they do get students from the other states.

Dr. Tucker stated that the veterinarian schools are admitting less students all the time. The Colorado requirement for out of state students is a 3.5 grade point average where the in state student needs a 2.5 average. There are only 16 veterinarian schools in the United States.

Rex Lundberg explained the Consumer Affairs which was established in 1973. They are requesting one New Position in this budget which is a legal steno to support the Deputy Attorney General for the Southern Nevada office. The new positions shown requested that were not recommended were based on four new programs they wanted to establish. This request may be made again in 1977.

The Out of State travel was a large figure in the last year because this was a new program and they made trips throughout the country picking up information. In this biennium they are anticipating only 304 conferences that will be of value.

The In-State is expected to be about the same as previous years. This would provide for in-field investigations and trips from Reno to Las Vegas.

The Printing increase is due to the workload and they expect this figure to be about \$2000 for the next two years.

The Legal and Court Expenses are for the Deputy Attorney General's salary. They had requested two Deputy Attorney Generals, one for each office, but the Governor has recommended only one.

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The Special Investigations provides money used to purchase evidence to support a case of the Deputy Attorney General.

Dr. Tucker stated that they receive many complaints from tourists, but 30% of the complaints in Las Vegas are for auto repairs. Aging Services received a grant for \$44,000 which is used to provide information to the senior citizens for their protection.

The Dues and Registration are for conferences and the ACCI.

Self-Help, Referral, and Information is to provide information to the people who think they have been defrauded. 80% of these cases are not true and they will recommend that the person talk to the business, or perhaps refer them to Small Claims Court.

Ernie Gregory explained the Environmental Protection. He stated that they are requesting one New Position, an accountant, as they are required to submit a budget yearly for the support of program grants. This Agency support air, water and solid waste programs.

The Contractural Services would be used to contract with the University Department of Agriculture to do a study on agricultural return flows.

The Other Governmental Services pays for transfer of Federal Funds to Consumer Protection. They have utilized the sanitarians, recorded the time, and filed with the Federal Government for matching grants. \$46,000 is received for this service.

The In-State travel provides for field work continuously. They have sampling stations on the river and have air pollution equipment throughout the state that must be attended to.

Chairman Mello stated he had a proposal for splitting the division as follows:

- Department of Natural Resources
 - 1. Water Resources
 - 2. Colorado River resources
 - 3. Conservation Districts
 - 4. Oil and Gas Conservation
 - 5. Environment protection
 - 6. State Environmental Commission
- Department of Outdoor Recreation
 - 1. Fish and Game
 - 2. State Lands
 - 3. State Parks
 - 4. State Committee on Federal Land Laws
 - 5. Forestry

Chairman Mello stated that this was only a proposal and felt that the Governor, the budget office and the committee members could work together on this split.

Mr. Glover felt that the committee should look into the salary for the new director as he felt he should not have to be an engineer which is an administrative position.

Stanley P. Jones, Labor Commission, stated that this commission represents protection for the employer and the employee alike. They see that the labor laws are administered in regards to wages, hours, working conditions, pre-determination of prevailing wage, state approval agency for vets, etc. They have a great demand on action, reaction and service. They have a continued emphasis for equal opportunity employment on apprenticeship.

Under New Positions they are requesting a mediator for the Carson City office who would provide Ad Hoc mediation services, an auditor and a senior clerk typist. They are also requesting a compliance investigator for the Las Vegas office. He felt that the budget was realistic and would provide a workable plan for Nevada industry.

Contractual Services provide for contracting their own attorneys in the prosecution of violations of labor laws.

The Mediator would have to have worked with collective bargaining, use

conciliatory efforts, public relations oriented and conciliatory himself. Chairman Mello stated he felt it would be difficult to find a mediator at a salary of \$13,000.

Bob Bruce explained the Controller's Office. Mr. Bruce explained the handout regarding the controller's office and stated that page 31-10(2) are the dollar amounts dealt with, 31-11(3) weekly processing volume which shows the transactions processed, the postings made and the warrants written, 31-12(4) presentation of personnel cost including salary and benefits, 31-13(5) operating expenses in more detail, 31-17(6) schedule of position analysis, 31-19(7) presentation of personnel cost by position including salary and benefits, 31-23(8) all costs allocated to operating functions.

The New Position requested is a data processing supervisor. They want to do their own data entry rather than contract with the central date processing center. This would provide for a more even flow of the workload. This would be about the same cost as in the past.

In Agency Services the New Position requested is an Account Clerk and 1/2 Senior Account Clerk. Their goal is to come to a seven day accounting cycle by July 1 of this year. They are also trying to make the closing of the books a formal part of administration. With this accounting system they will not have to do major system rewrites and can develop special reports more efficiently. They need the opportunity to do pre-planning.

Mr. Bruce explained the Office of the Controller Financial Management Information Report System which is the development of pre-planning of teleprocessing.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.